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14 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SA/D/Pers

THROUGH :

St/A/BGI

SUBJECT :

Comments on the Summer Intern Program

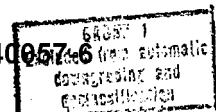
1. At first the succession of meetings and briefings came rapidly, and infused with Agency jargon, abbreviations, and acronyms, seemed overwhelming. Eventually things began to fall into place as I settled into office work and entered discussions with veteran employees. Perhaps this situation, i.e., a period needed for assimilation, accounts for my selecting two of the later briefings as the most interesting and informative. These two briefings were the address given by [redacted] of the Office of Training on 4 August and the tour through NPIC on 7 August.

2. [redacted] gave us what I consider to be the best account of the Agency's operation both within the intelligence community and internally. He did this without excessive use of organizational charts, a feat many of us appreciated. During the question and answer session he responded candidly to many sharp questions from the floor. This was well received by the audience, judging from the comments overheard in the hall after the session.

3. Of particular interest to me was the tour through NPIC. During the tour I thought how much this would have helped had I visited there prior to beginning work on the Intelligence Mapping Program (IMP). Afterward, however, I concluded that my appreciation of the tour and a small understanding of the PI activity was possible because of previous exposure to the IMP and on-the-job briefings by [redacted]

4. My primary assignment was on the IMP which seems especially suited for intern training. It is interesting work and does not require constant supervision by a trainer, yet the work involves decisions and interpretations which are made through consultation with the trainer and material from all sources. The nature of the work, fortunately, permits interruption, thus allowing for attendance at the many briefings in the intern program and also facilitating secondary assignments to assist analysts working on other projects. At the end of the summer training the intern will have completed several maps. This gives the intern the feeling that he has made at least a small contribution in return for a valuable experience.

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5. As expected in any work, some projects are tedious with an apparent minimal gain in production. Such was the case with two of my secondary assignments -- support for a population study and computations on a railroad project. These tasks were monotonous, exacting and many times frustrating when the desired information was not available. I recognize, however, that this is the basic research and manipulation of data so necessary in the initial steps of producing good finished intelligence. I am sure that exposure to this type work is essential in the development of a geographic intelligence officer.

6. A valuable side light to the intern program is the everyday exposure to other intelligence officers. Working with experienced analysts and listening to their discussions provide the kind of insight and background on intelligence operations that is not acquired at briefings. I consider this association probably as beneficial as the formal training received during the summer.

7. I feel that the Summer Intern Program overall is very worthwhile. The program is well-coordinated and seems to blend successfully with the new employee briefings. The people with whom I have come in contact during the program have been most helpful and friendly. I consider this summer's experience as valuable and, as a result, I expect to continue my studies as before but with an added view toward developing skills applicable to intelligence reporting. 25X1

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